

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 049641  
ORIGIN IO-03

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R 050440Z MAR 77  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

CONFIDENTIAL STATE 049641

LIMDIS

FOLLOWING DAR ES SALAAM 717 SENT ACTION SECSTATE FEB 15;  
REPEATED TO YOU QUOTE

CONFIDENTIAL DAR ES SALAAM 0717

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PDIP, TZ, US, PFOR  
SUBJECT: INVITATION TO PRESIDENT NYERERE TO MAKE STATE VISIT TO  
US IN 1977

REF: DAR ES SALAAM 0672

1. EMBASSY PROPOSES THAT DEPT RECOMMEND TO WHITE HOUSE THAT  
PRESIDENT NYERERE BE INVITED TO MAKE STATE VISIT TO US  
EARLY IN NEW ADMINISTRATION, PERHAPS AS ONE OF FIRST AFRICAN  
LEADERS TO RECEIVE SUCH INVITATION.

2. NYERERE'S  
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ROLE IN AFRICA: THE ADMINISTRATION HAS ANNOUNCED  
ITS INTENTION TO DEVOTE GREATER ATTENTION TO SOUTHERN AFRICA AT A  
TIME WHEN ITS PROBLEMS ARE INCREASINGLY ACUTE. IN THIS SITUATION,  
NYERERE PLAYS A CRITICAL ROLE AS CHAIRMAN OF THE FIVE FRONT-LINE  
STATES.

3. OPPORTUNE TIME: NYERERE IS AT THE MOMENT VERY INTERESTED

IN THE US, BECAUSE OF THE PROMISE HE SEES IN THE NEW ADMINISTRATION AND THE EXCELLENT IMPRESSION MADE UPON HIM BY AMBASSADOR ANDREW YOUNG (REFTEL). HE IS AS RECEPTIVE AS HE IS EVER LIKELY TO BE TO EXAMINING PRAGMATICALLY THE VIEWS OF THE USG AND ITS ROLE IN AFRICA.

4. DISADVANTAGES: UNLIKE MANY OTHER AFRICAN LEADERS, NYERERE POSES FEW LIABILITIES AS A VISITOR. ALTHOUGH TANZANIAN IS A ONE-PARTY STATE, NYERERE IS A CIVILIAN WHO INITIALLY ASSUMED POWER BY LEGITIMATE MEANS AND WHOSE POLITICAL OPPONENT ATTRACTS NO SUPPORT ABROAD. NYERERE'S REGIME IS NOT CHARACTERIZED BY TORTURE OR WIDESPREAD GOVERNMENT CORRUPTION SCANDALS. INDEED, TO A LARGE PROPORTION OF AMERICANS INTERESTED IN AFRICA, TANZANIA'S SOCIALIST EXPERIMENT IS A MATTER OF HIGH INTEREST, THOUGH ITS UN POLEMICS OCCASIONALLY OFFEND. NYERERE IS AN ATTRACTIVE PERSON, WITH A CAPACITY FOR DELIGHTING SYMPATHETIC AUDIENCES. WHILE AMERICAN CONSERVATIVES OBJECT TO HIS RADICALISM, THE US LEFT FINDS HIS EGALITARIAN THEORIZING INTRIGUING AND THE MEDIA WOULD REMAIN BEMUSED THROUGHOUT A VISIT.

5. ADVANTAGES TO US: NYERERE PLAYS A KEY ROLE IN THE UNFOLDING SOUTHERN AFRICAN SITUATION. IT IS USEFUL FOR THE US TO MAXIMIZE ITS WORKING RELATIONSHIP WITH HIM. THIS CAN BEST BE DONE BY EXPOSING HIM PERSONALLY TO THE PRESIDENT AND TO THE SECRETARY STATE. WE BELIEVE THAT SUCH MEETINGS WOULD IMPRESS NYERERE, EVER SUSPICIOUS OF AMERICAN CAPITALISM, OF AMERICA'S MORAL PURPOSE IN SEEKING MAJORITY RULE AND HUMAN JUSTICE IN SOUTHERN AFRICA. GIVEN NYERERE'S IDEOLOGICALLY CIRCUMSCRIBED APPRAISAL OF AMERICAN MOTIVES, SUCH AN IMPRESSION

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COULD BE IMPORTANT IN INFLUENCING HIM TOWARD FURTHER COOPERATION IN THE SEARCH FOR PEACEFUL SOLUTIONS TO SOUTHERN AFRICAN PROBLEMS.

6. WOULD NYERERE COME?: NYERERE LAST MADE AN OFFICIAL VISIT TO US IN 1963, DURING KENNEDY PRESIDENCY. WE BELIEVE HE WOULD ACCEPT AN INVITATION FROM THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION WITH ALACRITY. THIS WOULD AFFORD HIM THE OPPORTUNITY TO MEET WITH TOP US LEADERS, TO PRESENT HIS IDEAS ON SOUTHERN AFRICAN AND WORLD ISSUES TO THE AMERICAN PUBLIC, AND TO INCREASE HIS PRESTIGE IN AFRICA AS A NON-ALIGNED LEADER ACCEPTABLE IN ALL MAJOR CAPITALS OF EAST AND WEST. SPAIN UNQUOTE CHRISTOPHER

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## Message Attributes

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**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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**Review Markings:**  
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